

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



230500

Skinner gets cleanup plan at long last

Negotiations to begin soon

By Laura Greff

Pulse

smoothly.

Eleven years after the Skinner Landfill was placed on the National Priorities List, United States Environmental Protection Agency officials have issued an official cleanup plan for the former dump.

"There are no surprises; it basically reflects the consensus reached by the (West Chester) Coalition (on the Skinner Cleanup)," said Remedial Project Manager Jim Van der Kloot.

The plan sets forth guidelines for capping of the site, and includes a 60-page summary of responses to comments the EPA received during a 10-month comment period from residents, coalition members and companies identified as potentially responsible parties, who will pay for the project.

Negotiations with the PRPs for implementation of the cleanup will kick off in about month, and could last from two to four months, Van der Kloot said.

During the recently completed first stage of the cleanup — which included fencing of the site, posting of additional warning signs and hook-up of area wells to an alternate water supply — the PRP group "completed the work on time and with a minimum of fuss," Van der Kloot said, indicating negotiations should proceed

smoothly. When the second phase of the project begins, all current on-site business activities, including the operation of a daycare center, will be evaluated.

The PRPs are installing additional ground water monitoring wells on the site, and have completed a radiation sweep of the landfill which turned up normal readings, Van der Kloot added.

Dr. Larry Bone of The Dow Chemical Co. affirmed the PRP's commitment to work with the community.

"We're on the hook forever so it's in our extreme best interests to make sure there's no exposure forever," Bone said. "Our company believes a site is not cleaned up until the local people think it's cleaned up... We want you to be as much a part of this team as you possibly can, and let's do this thing together."

Bone agreed to provide the township with a display model of the cap that will be constructed over the site. The PRPs can also provide videos that explain the technology, and may make a presentation to area school children.

Bone, Van der Kloot and a U.S. EPA attorney will discuss implementation of the record of decision at the coalition's next public meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11 in the community room of the Union Township Administration Building.

A+Hn:

Jim

VanderKloot

6-9-93

EPA nixes incineration as Skinner option

By Laura Graft
Inquirer Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER

After years of study stopped in speculation and punctuated by community outbursts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Friday issued an official cleanup plan for the Skinner Landfill Superfund site.

There are no surprises, it basically reflects the consensus reached by the (West Chester) Coalition for the Skinner Landfill Project the costs and difficulties associated

Manager Jim Van der Kloot. The plan discards an incineration option, which sparked an eruption of community concern when it was listed as a preferred cleanup method for the site in earlier EPA findings.

"I became convinced in the course of discussions with the Coalition and through re-evaluation of the site studies that the environmental benefits of incineration were limited to only a portion of the wastes at the site and that

with incineration were disproportionate high," Van der Kloot said.

The final \$16 million plan calls for:

- Construction of a multi-layered cap covering 16-26 acres of the former dump and the buried waste below;
- Capture and treatment of groundwater down gradient to the site;
- Control of groundwater flowing onto the site;
- Extraction of volatile vapors trapped in the soil around the buried waste lagoons;

Additional investigation of several areas of the site, including the rumored ravaged northwest corner;

- Monitoring of ground waters, surface waters, and air;
- Restrictions on future use of the property to keep people permanently off the site

Negotiations with companies identified as former dump customers for implementation of the project will begin in about a month and could take from

two to four months, Van der Kloot added.

If an agreement is reached, the potentially responsible businesses will pick up the tab for the project and begin designing the cap to EPA performance specifications.

Failure to reach an agreement with the potentially responsible parties would result in EPA financing of the project, followed by legal action against the former dumpers for reimbursement of the total cost, he added.